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Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever Badge 1417 🖺 Badge 2806

September 2008

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A Fairfax County, Va. publication

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By - MPO W. M. Brock

There are certain things that each generation will never forget. They make such a lasting impression upon us that we can actually recall what we were doing at the exact time we learned of the incident. I still remember the exact moment that I heard about the first plane crashing into the World Trade Center. At first there was disbelief and the possibility that it was a freak accident.

After learning of the second plane crashing into the Trade Center, then a third crashing into the Pentagon and a fourth crashing into a field in Pennsylvania, it was obvious that this was no accident. It was an intentional act in which more than 2,981 people were killed. Those killed were not only American citizens. There were nationals from over 90 different countries. This death toll surpassed that of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The United States of America and its people had been attacked on American soil! I remember how quiet it was following the attacks. It seemed that everyone pulled together. There were no party lines, no differences and no strangers. I even noted that it appeared crime and other calls for service decreased for a few weeks.

On September 11, 2001, America was transformed forever. We could no longer take for granted that feeling of security that we once embraced. Travel, especially air travel, procedures and restrictions were put in place. The Patriot Act was signed into law on October 26, 2001. War on terrorism was declared by President George W. Bush on September 20, 2001, during an address to a joint session of congress and the American public. The Department of Homeland Security was created in 2002.

The President later signed into law a resolution to designate September 11 of every year as. "Patriot Day." This is a discretionary day of remembrance for the events that took place in 2001. As a result of the War on terrorism, US troops have been sent most notably to Afghanistan and Iraq to take the fight to the enemy and confront them by destroying the leadership of terrorist networks.

I am not trying to start a political discussion with this article. I do want to make a point though. Things will never be as they were prior to September 11, 2001. That day changed many things here in the United States.

We can incorporate efforts for homeland security into our everyday routines and Neighborhood Watch groups. This can be done by taking the initiative to prepare and protect your own neighborhood. This should start at your own home. Here are a few things you can do. They may sound trivial, but you would be surprised how they could help in the event of an emergency.

- Make a list of important phone numbers. Make copies of the list and post by each phone. Make sure each family member is aware of the lists and where they are posted.
- Make a neighborhood directory that identifies certain neighbors that may require assistance in the event of an emergency. These may include young children, seniors or people that have any disability.
- Make sure your house numbers are readily visible from the street in the event you need police or emergency assistance. Also have adequate lighting for visibility in the front of the house.
- Develop a home evacuation plan. Make sure family members are aware of it. Practice it from time to time. Have a safe area designated where you will all meet after evacuation. Take into account any pets you may have.
- Sknow where utility shut offs are located (gas, electric, water).
- Be alert when opening your mail. If you do not recognize the sender and the package has exposed wires, excessive postage, anything leaking through the packaging or a strange odor, leave the package alone and contact the police.
- Secure your computer. Keep your security information secret. Use passwords that are unique. Include at least one number and a symbol. Use virus protection and complete security updates as needed. Also, if you have a wireless router make sure it is password protected.
- The Have an emergency preparedness kit on hand. This kit should include:
 - * Water- three to five day supply (one gallon per person per day).
 - * Food that will not spoil and does not need to be cooked.
 - * First-aid kit and any prescription medication that you regularly take.
 - * Basic hand tools, battery operated radio, cell phone, flashlight and extra batteries.
 - * Personal items (garbage bags, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper)
 - * Portable generator (if possible)
- Always report suspicious activity, vehicles and persons to the police.





Crime Prevention and You

By MPO W. M. Brock

Crime prevention is defined as the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to move or reduce the risk. It is a proactive rather than reactive approach with the goal of preventing a crime from happening in the first place.

The old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I would like to still believe this saying holds true. Things would be much easier if we could prevent a bad event from occurring instead of picking up the pieces after it has already taken place. That is where my job comes in. With over 20 years of law enforcement experience, I would hope that I could share a few tips on how to avoid becoming a victim. Prior to becoming a crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station, I was a detective assigned to the Retail Theft Unit and the Criminal Investigations Section at the McLean District Station. It was very frustrating having to follow up on crimes that could have been prevented in the first place by applying a few simple security measures.

Theft is a crime of opportunity. In order for a crime to take place, you have to have three elements. The first is opportunity. Second is the ability to commit the crime and third is the desire. Think of these as the three sides of a triangle.

What happens if you remove one side of a triangle? The logical answer, it would collapse. With each side resting on the other, it is dependent on all three sides remaining in place. Thus, by removing any or all of the factors in this equation, you would prevent a crime from taking place.

Let us look at this closer in accomplishing our goal. We could start with simply reducing the rewards available to the criminal. Picture a parking lot with 100 cars. Of the 100 cars, only 10 have items of value readily visible. Would it make more sense to break into the 10 that definitely contain items of value or to break into the 90 cars that have no trace of such items? If there is nothing to gain, nothing to steal, nothing to catch the criminals' eye, most likely they will move on to that target with the guaranteed reward.

Given the same situation with the cars in the parking lot, let us say six of the 10 containing visible items of value are not locked. Would it not make sense to say that in order for the criminal to gain control over these items, there was no real effort required?

Okay, now we have one of the six unlocked vehicles parked under a street light beside an open business. There is also a large dog inside of this vehicle. The remaining five vehicles are parked several rows back next to a group of bushes. They are also hidden from the neighboring business by a dumpster and other vehicles in the lot. Would it make more sense to target the five vehicles hidden from view or the one that has a potential of drawing a lot of attention toward them? The criminals' risk of being caught is greater with the lone vehicle in a highly visible location. The dog inside would also provide a challenge to the would-be thief in making a hasty and undetected exit from the area.

Most everyone knows the information I have just provided. The sad part is there are always those who do not take these simple rules to heart. Crime is inevitable. It is going to happen. It is just a matter of when and where. If each of us took a few extra minutes to practice some form of crime prevention, it would send a message to the would be thief: move on. We are committed to help reduce crime and prevent ourselves from becoming victims. So, the next time you get home and park your vehicle, think about the crime triangle. Lock your vehicle and remove any and all valuables to include wallets, GPS units or computers.

In an effort to educate the public, we are regularly placing a mobile message board in areas that have been recently targeted by thefts from vehicles. This is not to say any of these areas are, "bad" areas in which to reside or are crime ridden. It is simply a reminder to remain proactive and vigilant in the fight against crime.



RECENT CRIME TRENDS

- GPS thefts have steadily risen over the course of the summer. (Remove GPS and evidence of GPS from your vehicle).
- Theft from garages with overhead doors left open. (Close and lock all doors when you are not standing immediately within that area)
- Theft of credit cards from women's purses at various stores. (Keep purse and wallet in a location that does not allow easy access. Also, do not be distracted by others. This could be a ruse used to draw your attention away from your valuables.)



Left- PFC P. Katinsky and MPO W. Brock Sully District Station's crime prevention officers.



GPS Thefts are on the Rise!

Remove unit from vehicle!



These units are small, portable and frequently stolen.



Tips for deterring thefts:

- REMOVE portable GPS units AND cradle from windshield. Items should be REMOVED not concealed.
- REGISTER GPS immediately with manufacturer (this may assist in the recovery should a theft occur).
- CLEAN the ring mark on the windshield left by the suction cup.
- LOCK all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.



For more information please contact the Sully District Crime Prevention Unit at 703-814-7000.

To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-246-2253. TTY 703-204-2264



In honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Fairfax County Police Department is sponsoring our 2nd annual

K-9 Krawl 5K

A dog walk to increase awareness of the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty



Date: Sunday, October 19, 2008

Time: Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.

The walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

Line Up Time & Place: Fairfax County Government Center

(parking lot C)

This FREE walk is a great way for you and your canine companion to come out and show support for victims and pets of violence during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN

- Goodie bags
- Domestic Violence Resource Tables
- McGruff the Crime Dog
- FCPD Bloodhound "Molly"
- FCPD K-9 bomb dog "Gracie"

CONFUSION ABOUT BOOSTER SEATS

By MPO W. M. Brock

What is a booster seat and why do you need one for your child? You may also hear it being called a belt positioning booster. A booster seat does just that, it boosts a child to a proper position in which to ride. The lap belt should rest low across the hips and upper thighs. The shoulder belt should go across the shoulder and across the chest. Many times without a booster seat, the shoulder belt will ride across the neck and the lap belt will rest across a child's stomach.

A child will most likely move to a booster seat at around four years of age with a weight of approximately 40 pounds. The booster seat serves to protect children that have outgrown a child restraint with a harness, but are too small for the seat belt. It helps position the child to accommodate proper use

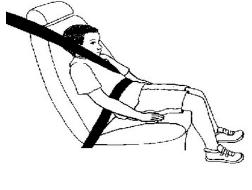
There are basically two styles of booster seats, a high-back version and a no back version. The high-back seat provides head and neck support for your child if your vehicle seat does not have a headrest. The low back booster should only be used in vehicles with headrests. Keep in mind that a child must be tall enough to sit with their knees bent at the edge of the seat without scooting forward to fit correctly in a safety belt. If this is not possible, a booster should continue to be used until this can be accomplished.

The Code of Virginia 46.2-1095 states that, "any person who drives on the highways of Virginia any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall ensure that any child, up to age eight, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device of a type which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation."

Translated, that means that any child being transported in a motor vehicle made after January 1, 1968 must be in a booster seat until they reach the age of eight years old. This has created some confusion, as the law used to specify a minimum height as the determining factor on when a booster seat was no longer needed. It is estimated that up to 90 percent of the children in the United States that should be using a booster seat do not. This leads to countless injuries and deaths that could be avoided.

Improper seating position for a child. A booster seat would prevent this from occurring.







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Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

. Next available dates:

Thursday, October 9, 2008

5 PM— 8:30 PM

Thursday, October 16, 2008

5 PM— 8:30 PM

No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CACCorner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. Detective Cook was officially recognized as officer of the quarter. PFC Taitano spoke about the various functions of the Crash Reconstruction Unit. John Werderman followed PFC Taitano with a presentation on child safety seats. Yearly elections were held at the conclusion of the meeting. Congratulations to Leslie Jenuleson, Chair; Don York, Co-Chair and Barbara Prescop, secretary.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The meeting place will be the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. The topics will be recruit training for new police officers and the Citizen's Police Academy. Please come and join us!







It's that time of year again when the kids are back in school. Over the summer months we

have driven on our daily commutes without seeing school buses or those flashing yellow School Zone speed limit signs. This month, as a refresher, we will go over the laws pertaining to passing a stopped school bus as well as speeding in a school zone.

Sometimes drivers get confused about whether to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading with it's lights activated. Any new bus placed in service on or after July 1, 2007 is equipped with a minimum of the following: Non sequential red traffic warning lights, a warning sign with flashing lights, and a crossing control arm that are all automatically activated when the bus door opens.

You **DO NOT** have to stop when approaching a school bus that is loading or unloading children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons on the other roadway of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway <u>when they are separated from</u> the lanes you are traveling by a physical barrier or an unpaved area.

This means a grass or cement median, guardrail, or any other unpaved area. It **DOES NOT** mean when the lane is merely separated by lines on the roadway either dotted, white, or even a double yellow. Drivers also assume that when there are several lanes in the same direction and the bus is loading or unloading in the far right lane they do not need to stop. This is not true. Stop unless there is some type of barrier as described above.

Be alert and pay attention. When approaching a school bus, slow down and be prepared to stop. As mentioned in last month's Traffic Trivia, some people may not know this law or just choose not to obey it. This can lead to a very serious situation endangering children, elderly, or handicapped persons. You can be charged with reckless driving. This is not a simple traffic infraction but a Class 1 Misdemeanor which is punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine. This does not include missing work for court appearances or attorney fees that you will incur.

§ 46.2-844. Passing stopped school buses; penalty; prima facie evidence.

The driver of a motor vehicle approaching from any direction a clearly marked school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons, who, in violation of \S 46.2-859, fails to stop and remain stopped until all such persons are clear of the highway, private road or school driveway, is subject to a civil penalty of \$250 and any prosecution shall be instituted and conducted in the same manner as prosecutions for traffic infractions.

A prosecution or proceeding under \S 46.2-859 is a bar to a prosecution or proceeding under this section for the same act and a prosecution or proceeding under this section is a bar to a prosecution or proceeding under \S 46.2-859 for the same act.

In any prosecution for which a summons charging a violation of this section was issued within ten days of the alleged violation, proof that the motor vehicle described in the summons was operated in violation of this section, together with proof that the defendant was at the time of such violation the registered owner of the vehicle, as required by Chapter 6 (§ 46.2-600 et seq.) of this title shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the person who operated the vehicle at the place where, and for the time during which, the violation occurred.

The testimony of the school bus driver, the supervisor of school buses or a law-enforcement officer that the vehicle was yellow, conspicuously marked as a school bus, and equipped with warning devices as prescribed in § $\underline{46.2-1090}$ is prima facie evidence that the vehicle is a school bus.

(1985, c. 511, § 46.1-212.1; 1987, c. 106; 1989, c. 727; 1997, cc. 622, 800, 908; 2001, c. 126; 2002, c. 541.)



§ 46.2-859. Passing a stopped school bus; prima facie evidence.

A person is guilty of reckless driving who fails to stop, when approaching from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons, and to remain stopped until all the persons are clear of the highway, private road or school driveway and the bus is put in motion. The driver of a vehicle, however, need not stop when approaching a school bus if the school bus is stopped on the other roadway of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the roadway on which he is driving by a physical barrier or an unpaved area. The driver of a vehicle also need not stop when approaching a school bus which is loading or discharging passengers from or onto property immediately adjacent to a school if the driver is directed by a law-enforcement officer or other duly authorized uniformed school crossing guard to pass the school bus. This section shall apply to school buses which are equipped with warning devices prescribed in $\S 46.2$ -1090 and are painted yellow with the words "School Bus" in black letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear thereof. Only school buses which are painted yellow and equipped with the required lettering and warning devices shall be identified as school buses. The testimony of the school bus driver, the supervisor of school buses or a law-enforcement officer that the vehicle was yellow, conspicuously marked as a school bus, and equipped with warning devices as prescribed in \S 46.2-1090 is prima facie evidence that the vehicle is a school bus.

(Code 1950, §§ 46-209, 46-209.1; 1950, p. 880; 1952, c. 671; 1954, cc. 225, 401, 458; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-190; 1960, c. 510; 1964, c. 266; 1966, c. 694; 1968, c. 575; 1970, c. 521; 1974, cc. 222, 455; 1975, c. 633; 1978, c. 27; 1979, c. 86; 1981, cc. 333, 585; 1985, c. 148; 1989, c. 727; 2001, c. 126; 2002, c. 541.)



§ 46.2-1090. Warning devices on school buses; other buses; use thereof; penalties. Every bus used for the principal purpose of transporting school children shall be equipped with a warning device of such type as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education after consultation with the Superintendent of State Police. Such a warning device shall indicate when such bus is either (i) stopped or about to stop to take on or discharge children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons or (ii) stopped or about to stop for another such bus, when approaching from any direction, that is stopped or about to stop to take on or discharge any such persons. Such warning device shall be used and in operation for at least 100 feet before any proposed stop of such bus if the lawful speed limit is less than thirty-five miles per hour, and for at least 200 feet before any proposed stop of such bus if the lawful speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or more.

For any new bus placed into service on or after July 1, 2007, such warning devices, at a minimum, shall include a nonsequential system of red traffic warning lights, a warning sign with flashing lights, and a crossing control arm such that when the bus door is opened, the red warning lights, warning sign with flashing lights, and crossing control arm are automatically activated.

Failure of a warning device to function on any school bus shall not relieve any person operating a motor vehicle from his duty to stop as provided in §§ $\underline{46.2-844}$ and $\underline{46.2-859}$.

Any person operating such bus who fails or refuses to equip such vehicle being driven by him with such equipment, or who fails to use such warning devices in the operation of such vehicle shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Transit buses used to transport school children in the City of Hampton may be equipped with an advisory sign that extends from the left side of the bus and displays the words: "CAUTION-STUDENTS." Such sign may be equipped with not more than two warning lights of a type approved for use by the Superintendent of State Police.

(Code 1950, § 22-280; 1956, c. 213; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-287; 1960, c. 156; 1970, c. 521; 1975, c. 633; 1982, c. 681; 1989, c. 727; 1995, c. 106; 1996, c. 512; 2007, c. 421.)

Next we will review speeding in a school zone. *The maximum speed in a school zone, as set by Virginia law, is 25 miles per hour between portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs placed in or along any highway and bearing the word "school" or "school crossing.*" When any person operating a motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit, established specifically for a school crossing zone, that has appropriately placed signs shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$250 in addition to other penalties provided by law. On a side note neither the Police Department nor the court can assign or decrease points on your driving record. Virginia DMV is responsible for that.

This does not rule out reckless driving however, if you are traveling 20 miles per hour over the posted limit in a school zone which again is a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Police officers use both Radar and Lidar to measure speed in school zones just as they do on any other roadway. They have the same amount of discretion in issuing someone a warning or written summons for the violation. They are usually **less lenient**, however, when it comes to school zones, so please watch your speed.

In closing remember to always obey traffic laws, especially around schools and school buses to help keep our children safe and yourself out of trouble.

- § 46.2-873. Maximum speed limits at school crossings; penalty.
- A. The maximum speed limit shall be twenty-five miles per hour between portable signs, tiltover signs, or fixed blinking signs placed in or along any highway and bearing the word "school" or "school crossing." Any signs erected under this section shall be placed not more than 600 feet from the limits of the school property or crossing in the vicinity of the school. However, "school crossing" signs may be placed in any location if the Department of Transportation or the council of the city or town or the board of supervisors of a county maintaining its own system of secondary roads approves the crossing for such signs. If the portion of the highway to be posted is within the limits of a city or town, such portable signs shall be furnished and delivered by such city or town. If the portion of highway to be posted is outside the limits of a city or town, such portable signs shall be furnished and delivered by the Department of Transportation. The principal or chief administrative officer of each school or a school board designee, preferably not a classroom teacher, shall place such portable signs in the highway at a point not more than 600 feet from the limits of the school property and remove such signs when their presence is no longer required by this section. Such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs shall be placed in a position plainly visible to vehicular traffic approaching from either direction, but shall not be placed so as to obstruct the roadway.
- B. Such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or blinking signs shall be in a position, or be turned on, for thirty minutes preceding regular school hours, for thirty minutes thereafter, and during such other times as the presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists. The governing body of any county, city, or town may, however, decrease the period of time preceding and following regular school hours during which such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or blinking signs shall be in position or lit if it determines that no children will be going to or from school during the period of time that it subtracts from the thirty-minute period.
- C. The governing body of any city or town may, if the portion of the highway to be posted is within the limits of such city or town, increase or decrease the speed limit provided in this section only after justification for such increase or decrease has been shown by an engineering and traffic investigation, and no such increase or decrease in speed limit shall be effective unless such increased or decreased speed limit is conspicuously posted on the portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs required by this section.
- D. The City of Virginia Beach may establish school zones as provided in this section and mark such zones with flashing warning lights as provided in this section on and along all highways adjacent to Route 58.
- E. Any person operating any motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit established specifically for a school crossing zone, when such school crossing zone is (i) indicated by appropriately placed signs displaying the maximum speed limit and (ii) in operation pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$250, in addition to other penalties provided by law.

For the purposes of this section, "school crossing zone" means an area located within the vicinity of a school at or near a highway where the presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists. Such zones are marked and operated in accordance with the requirements of this section with appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices indicating that a school crossing is in progress.

School zones in residential areas may be decreased to 15 miles per hour if (i) the school board F. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the maximum speed limit in having jurisdiction over the school nearest to the affected school zone passes a resolution requesting the reduction of the maximum speed limit for such school zone from 25 miles per hour to fifteen miles per hour and (ii) the local governing body of the jurisdiction in which such school is located enacts an ordinance establishing the speed-limit reduction requested by the school board.

(Code 1950, § 46-212; 1950, p. 881; 1952, c. 666; 1954, c. 244; 1956, c. 364; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-193; 1960, c. 153; 1962, c. 307; 1964, cc. 118, 408; 1966, c. 85; 1968, c. 641; 1972, cc. 89, 546, 553, 608; 1974, c. 528; 1977, c. 577; 1978, c. 605; 1980, c. 347; 1989, c. 727; 1990, c. 928; 1994, c. 157; 1997, cc. 629, 781; 2007, c. 813.)













TRAFFIC SAFETY WATCH

Traffic Safety Watch is designed to enlist the support of citizens to educate non users of child safety seats and safety belts and aggressive drivers. Bright yellow Traffic Safety Watch brochures are now available to the public at the district police stations. These brochures provide information on aggressive driving and safety laws pertaining to child safety restraints. There is a postage-paid portion of the brochure that can be filled out by the citizen detailing their observation and then mailed to the Traffic Safety Watch program. Participants are not required to provide their names. The Police Department will then send the registered owner of the reported vehicle a letter stressing the importance of safety restraints for their children and/or the dangers of aggressive driving. In addition, when the observed violation involves an unrestrained child, the letter offers a variety of resources for the parent or caregiver.

This program is also used to generate a letter to a vehicle owner when a phone call is received by the Department of Public Safety Communications Center, reporting a violation. Public education and awareness are important factors in stopping aggressive driving and the unnecessary risk some children face when not properly restrained. With help from the community, through programs such as Traffic Safety Watch, we can make a greater impact.

You may also report aggressive drivers and unbuckled or unsecured children using an online form. This form can be found at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traf_sfty_report.htm

Centreville Day Photos









Sully District Police Station 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone Fax 703-814-7000 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line www.fairfaxcounty.
gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert

http://www.vaamberalert.com

Aggressive Driving— Report Online at

https://www.fairfaxcounty. gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_ report.htm.



PHONE NUMBERS

Fairfax County Crime Solvers: 1-866-411-TIPS

Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Sully District Crime Prevention Office: 703-814-7018 Or 703-814-7048

Child Car Seat Installation: Sully District Station 703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class) 703-246-7806

Citizen Reporting System (to file reports only) 703-691-2131



This is just a reminder: The Fairfax County Police Department provides Home Security Inspections, free of charge. Here is a brief description of this service:

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. These recommendations will be provided in writing to allow you to review and implement them at your own pace.

Contact either crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station to arrange your free inspection.



You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. Chapters are now being formed in each police district across the county. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical region. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

Triad is a three-pronged approach between law enforcement, senior citizens, and service providers to address crime prevention for seniors. The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community. There are currently 89 local Triad agreements encompassing 225 cities, counties and towns within Virginia.

Participants will play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Make sure your voice is heard. Volunteer today! We really need your support to get this program off of the ground.

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at wbrocl@fairfaxcounty.gov or pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock